

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at Page 160, line 17, with the following:

The image-forming layer of the lithographic printing plate precursor according to the present invention can be generally prepared by dissolving the above-described each component in a solvent and coating the coating solution on an appropriate support and, if necessary, performing various treatments, e.g., hydrolysis of acids, hydrolysis of bases, thermal decomposition, photo-decomposition, oxidation and reduction. The examples of the solvents used include tetrahydrofuran, ethylene dichloride, cyclohexanone, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, methanol, ethanol, propanol, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, 2-methoxyethyl acetate, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, 1-methoxy-2-propanol, 1-methoxy-2-propyl acetate, dimethoxyethane, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, toluene, ethyl acetate, ethyl lactate, methyl lactate, dimethyl sulfoxide, water, ~~sulforan~~ sulfolane and γ -butyrolactone, but solvents are not limited thereto.

Please replace the paragraph at Page 168, line 20, with the following:

As the light sources of actinic rays for use in image exposure, e.g., a mercury lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon lamp, a chemical lamp, and a carbon arc lamp are used. Radiations include electron beams, X-rays, ion beams, and far infrared rays. Further, g-rays, i-rays, Deep-UV rays, high density energy beams (laser beams) are also used. As laser beams, a helium-neon laser, an argon laser, a krypton laser, a helium-

cadmium laser, a KrF ~~eximer~~ excimer laser, a solid state laser and a semiconductor laser
can be used.